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151108Z Sep 00

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	INL-00
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	VC-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01
	NSAE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00
	/009W						

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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7119
INFO SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 005214

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
LONDON FOR CHARLES GURNEY
PARIS FOR BISA WILLIAMS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/15/10

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: RAID ON MDC PARTY HEADQUARTERS CONTINUES ON
SEPTEMBER 15

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CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR MCDONALD. REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND
(D).

SUMMARY

1. (U) ACTION REQUEST - PLEASE SEE PARA 7.

2. (C) AFTER SEARCHING THE MDC HEADQUARTERS ON SEPTEMBER 14 (REFTEL), HEAVILY ARMED POLICE EXPANDED THEIR SEARCH TO TWO OTHER MDC OFFICES, ALSO ON SEPTEMBER 14, INCLUDING THE ONE CONTAINING THE OFFICE OF PARTY PRESIDENT MORGAN TSVANGIRAI. MDC LAWYERS PREVENTED THE POLICE FROM TAKING AWAY DOCUMENTS, POINTING OUT THAT THEIR SEARCH WARRANT ONLY PERMITTED A SEARCH FOR "ARMS OF WAR."

3. (C) ACCORDING TO MDC ADVISOR CLIVE PUZEY, TWO SENIOR MDC OFFICIALS -- GANDI MUDZINGWA, TSVANGIRAI'S RIGHT-HAND MAN AND NELSON CHAMISA, CHAIRMAN FOR YOUTH -- WERE DETAINED AT HARARE'S CENTRAL POLICE STATION FOR SIX HOURS ON SEPTEMBER 14, BUT WERE RELEASED AT 10:00 P.M. THEY WERE NOT BEATEN OR MISTREATED, BUT WERE ASKED REPEATEDLY TO IDENTIFY THE LOCATIONS OF MDC WEAPONS CACHES. PUZEY INSISTED THAT THE MDC HAS NO ARMS CACHES -- IT HAD ONLY A PISTOL FOR THE PROTECTION OF TSVANGIRAI, WHICH THE POLICE CONFISCATED BEFORE THE JUNE ELECTIONS. POLICE ALSO SEARCHED THE HOME OF THE PARENTS OF AN MDC MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND THE OFFICES OF THE ZIMBABWE FRANCHISE OF

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ERICSSON'S TELEPHONE COMPANY, WHOSE OWNERS ARE MDC SUPPORTERS. ACCORDING TO AN MDC PRESS RELEASE, TWO OTHER MDC EMPLOYEES WERE ALSO DETAINED AND RELEASED -- THE CHIEF OF SECURITY AND A SECURITY OFFICER.

4. (C) LATE ON SEPTEMBER 14, THE HIGH COURT GRANTED AN INJUNCTION STOPPING FURTHER POLICE ACTION. ACCORDING TO PUZEY, HOWEVER, THE POLICE, AGAIN HEAVILY ARMED, RETURNED TO MDC HEADQUARTERS AT 7:00 A.M. ON SEPTEMBER 15 WITH A NEW WARRANT. THIS ONE APPARENTLY AUTHORIZES A SEARCH FOR DOCUMENTS RELATING TO "WEAPONS OF WAR," AND, AS OF THE WRITING OF THIS CABLE, POLICE ARE RIFLING THROUGH THE MDC'S FILES.

COMMENT

5. (C) THE GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY BEING SUBJECTED TO SERIOUS AND CRITICAL PUBLIC SCRUTINY AND APPEARS TO BE INCREASINGLY FED UP WITH IT. THE POLICE ACTIONS OF THE

LAST TWO DAYS, HOWEVER, ARE AN OUTRAGEOUS ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE A LEGITIMATE, POPULAR OPPOSITION PARTY AND HAVE DISTURBING IMPLICATIONS FOR THE POTENTIAL GROWTH OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE HERE. PUZEY SPECULATED THAT THE RECENT EMBARRASSMENT OF ZANU-PF MP -- AND MINISTER OF RURAL RESOURCES AND WATER DEVELOPMENT -- JOYCE MUJURU ON THE PARLIAMENT FLOOR BY AN MDC MP COULD HAVE SPARKED THE POLICE CRACKDOWN. ACCORDING TO PUZEY, AN MDC MP PUBLICLY TOOK MUJURU TO TASK FOR FAILING TO RESPOND TO HER CONSTITUENTS' LONGSTANDING REQUEST FOR THE BUILDING OF A BRIDGE. MUJURU'S HUSBAND, "REX" MUJURU, IS A RETIRED
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GENERAL WHO STILL RETAINS A GREAT DEAL OF INFLUENCE WITH SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT MUGABE, AND COULD HAVE PRESSED FOR THE POLICE ACTION AS RETRIBUTION.

16. (C) AMBASSADOR MCDONALD HAS REQUESTED A MEETING WITH HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER JOHN NKOMO, WHOSE MINISTRY OVERSEES THE POLICE. THE AMBASSADOR IS ASKING LIKE-MINDED AMBASSADORS TO JOIN HIM IN THIS MEETING.

17. (C) ACTION REQUEST: WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN CONSIDER READING A STATEMENT FROM THE PODIUM TODAY DEPLORING THIS BALD-FACED ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE THE LEGITIMATE POLITICAL OPPOSITION. A/S RICE WILL ALSO WANT, IN HER UPCOMING MEETING WITH FM MUDENGE, TO EXPRESS SERIOUS U.S. CONCERNS ABOUT THESE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE LAST TWO DAYS.

MCDONALD

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